

State of California  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin Region

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

March 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Chambers  
City of Indio  
150 Civic Center Mall  
Indio, CA 92201

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Ellen Way at 10:00 a.m. on March 19, 2008 in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**Roll Call (Board Members Only)**

**Board Member Present:**

Thomas Davis, Jon Edney, Jeff Hays, Maurice "Red" Martinez, Edward Muzik, Richard "Rick" Post, Ellen Way. The Board Secretary stated that a quorum was present. Tom Vandenberg, Regional Board counsel, told the Board that Jon Edney would be abstaining in all Board motions. Mr. Vandenberg explained that since Mr. Edney was recently appointed, he did not have time to adequately prepare for the agenda items on which the Board would be voting.

**Staff Present:**

Adnan Al-Sarabi, Jose Angel, Terry Barnes, Mary Castaneda, John Carmona, Abdi Haile, Jeong-Hee Lim, Mohammad Nash, Robert Perdue, Cliff Raley, Maribel Rodriguez, Jennie Snyder, Hilda Vasquez, Doug Wylie, and Nadim Zeywar.

**Others Present:**

Mike Shetler, County of Riverside  
Jason Uhley, Riverside County Flood Control  
Ruben Mireles, City of Brawley  
Don Campbell, City of Brawley  
Karin J. Morgon, City of Brawley  
Teresa Santiago, City of Brawley  
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District  
Gary Niles, Clear Water Project  
Robert Nicklen  
Robert Edwards, City of Indio  
Darrel Balancier, County of Riverside Environmental Health

Brett Daniels, City of Coachella  
Kristen Campbell, CalEnergy  
Darlene R. Coombes, visit  
Joe Guzzetia, JBWD  
Bill Long, JBWD  
Gary Lovelace, JBWD  
Jim Ventura, MWA

## **Minutes**

### 1. Minutes of January 16, 2008 Board Meeting

**MOTION:** Red Martinez moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted. (Note: "Motion carried unanimously" means for this Board meeting only that all members voted in the affirmative with one abstention, Jon Edney, for the reason explained above. Mr. Edney's abstentions are still noted, however.) Jon Edney abstained.

## **Public Forum**

### 2. There were no public comments.

## **UNCONTESTED WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS**

- |       |              |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 3. JS | R7-2008-0003 | Waste Discharge Requirements for Riverside County Waste Management Department, Land Owner Agri Service, Inc., Facility Owner/Operator Coachella Valley Compost Facility, North of Coachella – Riverside County |
| 4. JS | R7-2008-0024 | Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements for R7-2007-0002, Salton Sea Unit 6, Calipatria – Imperial County<br>R7-2004-0022, Desert Legacy, LLC, 29 Palms – San Bernardino County                             |
| 5. JC | R7-2008-0015 | Change of Name and/or Ownership of Facilities having Waste Discharge Requirements, Joshua Tree – San Bernardino County   |

**MOTION:** Rick Post moved, Red Martinez seconded. and motion carried unanimously that Board Orders No. R7-2008-0003, R7-2008-0024, R7-2008-0015, be adopted. Jon Edney abstained.

## **UNCONTESTED ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

6. JC R7-2008-0008 Cease and Desist Order for City of Brawley, Owner/Operator Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Wastewater Collection and Disposal Systems, Brawley – Imperial County

**MOTION:** Tom Davis moved, Jeff Hays seconded, and motioned carried unanimously that Cease and Desist Order No. R7-2008-0008 be adopted. Jon Edney abstained.

## **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING 2007 BASIN PLAN TRIENNIAL REVIEW**

7. CR R7-2008-0013 Resolution for Completion of the 2007 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region

**MOTION:** Jeff Hays moved, Red Martinez seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Resolution Order No. R7-2008-0013 be adopted. Jon Edney abstained.

The Board also directed staff to provide periodic reports on the status of priority issues and further clarification on the disposition of resources for Basin Planning priority work, objectives, milestones, sources of funding, status of completion, and projected deadlines for completion.

## **Other Business**

8. Informational Update on Coachella Valley Water District Monitoring Program for Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel Bacterial Indicators TMDL – CVWD

Steve Bigley gave a presentation to update the Board regarding the monitoring program being developed by the Coachella Valley farming community Task Force for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacterial Indicators TMDL. As Mr. Bigley explained, the monitoring program will be developed in accordance with EPA's Quality Assurance Project Plan requirements. Mr. Bigley said that a final draft monitoring program will be submitted by approximately May 15, 2008, to the Regional Board Executive Officer for his review and approval.

9. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities – AB/TV

Tom Vandenberg gave an update on policies that are under consideration for adoption by the State Water Resources Control Board. These included the Water Recycling Policy; Compliance Schedule Policy (NPDES Permits); State Revolving Fund Regulations; May 2008 Septic Tank Regulations and the revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy.

#### 10. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report – RP/JLA

Mr. Perdue introduced Maribel Rodriquez and Regional Water Board staff, who is performing public outreach by visiting schools to educate the children about the Board's role in protecting Water Quality. The Executive Officer also reported that Tom Vandenberg, Regional Water Board Counsel, and he had attended Topock Breakthrough Summit meetings with a representative of the Governor's office, a number of tribal nations, PG&E, Metropolitan Water District, and the lead CAL\_EPA agency, DTSC, to discuss numerous issues concerning the ground water chromium release at the PG&E Compressor Station near Needles, California.

Mr. Angel informed the Board that its office hosted a Bi-national Technical Committee meeting March 13<sup>th</sup>. The main issue discussed was ongoing bypasses of up to 8 million gallons per day of raw sewage into the New River from Mexico, in spite of the new wastewater treatment facility (a.k.a. "Mexicali II" and as "Las Arenitas") supposedly being operational. Mr. Angel stated that, after inquiring into the bypasses, it was discovered that Mexico had decided on its own that it was going to send the USA some raw sewage by design so Mexico could accommodate some spring breakers on the other side of the watershed. This caused significant concerns at all levels and the matter was elevated to our federal government for action. USEPA step in and sent a very stern and explicit letter to the Mexican government. Mr. Angel indicated that in its letter, USEPA essentially requested to stop the bypasses because otherwise Mexico was jeopardizing Bi-national funds for ongoing and future projects. Mexico reported during the meeting that it stopped the bypasses the day before the meeting and it learned from that mistake. Mr. Angel indicated that, once Mexico stopped the bypasses, the New River water quality improved significantly. He added that a copy of the USEPA letter was sent to all of the Board members. In response to a question from Ms. Way, Mr. Angel stated that Mexico has a sufficient number of operators at its wastewater treatment plants in Mexicali.

#### 11. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

The Board Members noted that possibly a quorum of them may be attending a bus tour on April 23, 2008, sponsored by the Coachella Valley Water District. The bus tour is being conducted as part of the third and final workshop for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Bacterial Indicators TMDL. The bus tour is planned for the morning portion of the workshop. The afternoon portion of the workshop is to be held in the Coachella Valley Water District headquarters office on Hovley Lane. A quorum of Board members is also expected to attend that afternoon portion of the workshop as well.

Mr. Muzik introduced several members from the Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) and Mr. Jim Ventura from the Mojave Water Agency. Mr. Guzzetta from JBWD shared with the Board some information on the type of work his District is doing to protect groundwater in Joshua Tree. Mr. Post mentioned

that he will be attending the workshop (sponsored by the State Water Board) and put together by the Water Education Foundation in San Diego on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (of April). Mr. Davis mentioned he would also be there.

12. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report – EW

Ms. Way brought to the Board Members attention the April 23<sup>rd</sup> upcoming tour by the Coachella Valley Water District and encouraged them to participate in it. She also pointed out that the Board still has several vacancies (e.g., one for County Government Representative), and if someone knows of anyone who may be interested in the positions to let her know.

**Arrangements for Next Board Meeting**

Date: May 21, 2008

**Adjournment**

Red Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Davis seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.